

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 14, 6 through 11 and 14 through 18 are pending in this application. Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 5, and 15 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 10 and 14 have been amended, claims 17 and 18 added, and claims 5, 12 and 13 cancelled. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Applicants note that the limitations of claim 5, indicated allowable, have been incorporated into claim 1, claims 4 and 14, indicated allowable, have been placed in independent form, a typographical oversight corrected in claim 2, and the dependencies of claims 9 and 10 changed. Adequate descriptive support for new claims 17 and 18 should be apparent throughout the originally filed disclosure as, for example, the disclosed embodiments and related discussion thereof in the written description of the specification, noting the repeated disclosure of multiple ports as, for example, on page 7 of the written description of the specification, line 18, page 11 of the written description, lines 21 and 22 and page 12 thereof, line 2. Applicants submit that the present Amendment does not generate any new matter issue.

In the Office Action of April 7, 2005, the following rejections were imposed:

- 1. Claims 12 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by UK '615;**
- 2. Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon UK '615 in view of Partus et al.;**

3. Claims 1, 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by Fleming Jr. et al.; and

4. Claims 2, 3, 7, 10, 11 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon Fleming Jr. et al. in view of UK '615.

Each of the above rejections 1 through 4 is traversed. Indeed, each of the above rejections has been rendered moot. This is because the limitations of claim 5, indicated allowable, have been incorporated into independent claim 1, claim 4, indicated allowable, has been placed in independent form, and claim 14, indicated allowable, has been placed in independent form, with claims 5, 12 and 13 being cancelled.

Based upon the foregoing Applicants submit that the imposed rejections of claims 12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by UK '615, of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon UK '615 in view of Partus et al., of claims 1, 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by Fleming Jr. et al. and of claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon Fleming Jr. et al. in view of UK '615, are not factually or legally viable and, hence, solicit withdrawal thereof.

New claims 17 and 18.

New claims 17 and 18 are free of the applied prior art. In this respect Applicants note that new claim 17 depends from independent claim 1, the patentability of which has been argued *supra*. It is not apparent wherein the applied references disclose or suggest the multiple port arrangement specified in new claim 18. Accordingly, Applicants submit that new claims 17 and 18 are free of the applied prior art.


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Applicants again acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 5 and 14 contain allowable subject matter. Based upon the arguments submitted *supra*, it should be apparent that the imposed rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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